



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Managing Editor
Russell Lynes Correspondence with Artists,
1946-1965, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Managing editor Russell Lynes correspondence with artists
Identifier:	AAA.harpmaga
Date:	1946-1965
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Creator:	Lynes, Russell, 1910-1991
Language:	English
Summary:	Correspondence with artists kept by Russell Lynes in his capacity as managing editor of <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , measures one linear foot and dates from 1946 to 1965. The files consist primarily of correspondence with young artists and illustrators wishing to submit material to the magazine. Biographical notes from the magazine's "Personal and Otherwise" column about the artists whose material was accepted, clippings, scattered original artwork, and printed reproductions of artwork, are also included.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives of American Art in 1967 by Harper & Row via Russell Lynes.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35 mm microfilm reels D360 and 4961 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on reels D360 and 4961 after donation. The collection was fully processed and a finding aid prepared by Stephanie Ashley in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Managing editor Russell Lynes correspondence with artists, 1946-1965. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Conditions Governing Use

Managing editor Russell Lynes correspondence with artists is owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical / Historical

Russell Lynes (1910-1991) joined *Harper's Magazine* as an assistant editor in 1944, and served as managing editor from 1947-1967. As an essayist, social historian, photographer, and arbiter of taste, Lynes served informally as art editor and corresponded with many artists regarding submissions to the magazine.

In addition to gaining renown for the thoughtful articles published in *Harper's* under his stewardship, Lynes was known for his satirical commentary on American tastes and preferences, particularly in architecture and decoration, in such books as *Highbrow, Lowbrow, Middlebrow* (1949), *The Tastemakers* (1954), and later works including *The Art-Makers of Nineteenth Century America* (1970).

Scope and Contents

Correspondence with artists kept by Russell Lynes in his capacity as managing editor of *Harper's Magazine*, measures one linear foot and dates from 1946 to 1965. The files consist primarily of correspondence with young artists and illustrators wishing to submit material to the magazine. Biographical notes from the magazine's "Personal and Otherwise" column about the artists whose material was accepted, clippings, scattered original artwork, and printed reproductions of artwork, are also included.

Although brief, the exchanges found in this collection offer a glimpse into the early careers of the artists represented, who often penned introductions to their work, and provided biographical information. Some of the letters are illustrated. Artists represented include Edmond Amateis, Benny Andrews, Irene Aronson, Oscar Berger, Marvin Bileck, Isabel Bishop, Carlyle Brown, Claire Burch, Ivan Chermayeff, Richard E. Davis, Robert J. Day, Eldon Dedini, Harvey Dinnerstein, Dean Ellis, Joseph Farris, Helen Frank, Frank Gallo, William D. Gorman, Douglas W. Gorsline, William Gropper, John Groth, Albert Hirschfeld, Carl Holty, Anne M. Jauss, Hans Jelinek, Kay Kato, Ted Key, Bernard Krigstein, Joseph Low, Loren MacIver, Jack Markow, Reginald Marsh, Charles E. Martin, William Mauldin, Richard Mayhew, Edward Melcarth, Glen Michaels, Nicolas Mordvinoff, Robert Osborn, David Pascal, Bernard Perlin, Ben Shahn, Bernarda Bryson Shahn, Aaron Sopher, Saul Steinberg, Susanne Suba, Peter Takal, Tony Walton, Andy Warhol, and Robert J. Wolff.

In addition to correspondence with artists there are notes on telephone calls to artists used for updating information in the *Harper's Magazine* files, reference letters written by Lynes on behalf of some artists, correspondence and memoranda with others regarding publishing logistics, and printed material featuring artwork.

Arrangement

Records are arranged as one series due to the small size of the collection.

- Series 1: Managing Editor Russell Lynes Correspondence with Artists, 1946-1965 (1 linear foot; Box 1)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Illustrators
Magazine illustration--20th century

Types of Materials:

Illustrated letters

Names:

Berger, Oscar, 1901-1997
Bryson, Bernarda
Osborn, Robert Chesley, 1904-1994
Perlin, Bernard, 1918-
Shahn, Ben, 1898-1969
Warhol, Andy, 1928-

Container Listing

Series 1: Managing Editor Russell Lynes Correspondence with Artists, 1946-1965

1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Although brief, the exchanges found in this collection offer a glimpse into the early careers of the artists represented, who often penned introductions to their work and provided biographical information. In addition to correspondence with artists there are on telephone calls to artists, reference letters written by Lynes, and printed material featuring artwork.

The Andy Warhol file relates to his work as an illustrator for John Cheever's "Vega" and other stories. Included are a letter with an ink sketch from Warhol, 1949, presumably in response to a request for biographical information: "...my life couldn't fill a penny postcard...i graduated from Carnegie Tech now i'm in NY city moving from one roach infested apartment to another"; a postcard to Frances Lattman, 1952, asking her to thank Lynes for letting him draw pictures for Shirley Jackson's stories and mentioning the possibility of a show of his drawings influenced by Truman Capote; an exhibition announcement for his Capote drawings at the Hugo Gallery; and three clippings from *Harper's Magazine* about Warhol, 1949-1952.

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent, and chronologically thereafter. Individuals for whom there are five or more letters have named files; other correspondents are in general files by letter.

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Box 1, Folder 2	Attie, David, circa 1959-1961
Box 1, Folder 3	A, General, 1948-1962
Box 1, Folder 4	Banbery, Frederick E., circa 1953-1962
Box 1, Folder 5	Barlow, Perry, 1958-1959
Box 1, Folder 6	Bates, Bill, 1960
Box 1, Folder 7	Berg, Joan Phyllis, circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 8	Berger, Oscar, circa 1947-1962
Box 1, Folder 9	Birmingham-Southern College, 1959
Box 1, Folder 10	Block, Lou, 1948-1959
Box 1, Folder 11	Bodecker, Max, 1957-1962
Box 1, Folder 12	Bryson-Shahn, Bernada, 1948-1962

Box 1, Folder 13	Burris, Burrah, 1948-1962
Box 1, Folder 14	Ba-Bi, General, 1946-1972
Box 1, Folder 15	Bi-Bu, General, 1947-1961
Box 1, Folder 16	Canton, Shelly Terman, 1959
Box 1, Folder 17	Cato, Robert, 1951-1962
Box 1, Folder 18	Collins, Bob, 1961
Box 1, Folder 19	C, General, 1947-1965
Box 1, Folder 20	Diamond, Harry O, circa 1951-1960
Box 1, Folder 21	Donohue, Paula, 1960
Box 1, Folder 22	D, General, 1946-1960
Box 1, Folder 23	Evans, Walker, 1961
Box 1, Folder 24	E, General, 1952-1960
Box 1, Folder 25	Fabrès, Oscar, 1959
Box 1, Folder 26	Farris, Joseph G., 1950-1962
Box 1, Folder 27	Ffeiffer, Jules, 1960-1961
Box 1, Folder 28	Fisher, Ed, 1958-1961
Box 1, Folder 29	Forte, Joseph, circa 1952-1962
Box 1, Folder 30	F, General, 1949-1962
Box 1, Folder 31	Gillespie, George E., 1955-1956
Box 1, Folder 32	Goldblatt, Burt, 1960
Box 1, Folder 33	Gorman, William D., 1959-1962

Box 1, Folder 34	Groth, John, 1949-1961
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Box 1, Folder 36	Gr-Gu, 1947-1962
Box 1, Folder 37	Hershfield, Leo, 1959-1962
Box 1, Folder 38	H, General, 1949-1962
Box 1, Folder 39	I-J, General, 1946-1972
Box 1, Folder 40	Katt, Elliot M., 1959
Box 1, Folder 41	Kelley, Mark E., Jr., 1960-1961
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Box 1, Folder 52	McMahon, Franklin, 1959-1962
Box 1, Folder 53	Melcarth, Edward, 1949-1962
Box 1, Folder 54	M.-Mar, General, 1947-1964
Box 1, Folder 55	Mau-Mi, General, 1950-1962

Box 1, Folder 56	Mo-Mu, General, 1947-1962
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Box 1, Folder 58	Osborn, Robert, circa 1958-1962
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Box 1, Folder 60	Powers, Matthew L., Jr., 1960-1962
Box 1, Folder 61	Perlin, Bernard, 1947-1961
Box 1, Folder 62	P, General, 1953-1961
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Box 1, Folder 72	Taber, Eileen, 1959
Box 1, Folder 73	T, General, 1952-1962
Box 1, Folder 74	U-V, General, 1949-1962
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Box 1, Folder 76	Warhol, Andy, 1949-circa 1952

Box 1, Folder 77	White, Anne, 1959-1960
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Box 1, Folder 79	Whitlock, Walter C., 1960-1961
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Box 1, Folder 81	Miscellaneous, circa 1950-circa 1962
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